

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) Device for applying a working power to a workpiece, comprising
a working cylinder,
a working piston,
an actuation chamber which ~~can be~~ is supplied with a hydraulic medium during an operation of applying the working power and which is situated on one side of the piston,
a return chamber which ~~can be~~ is supplied with a gaseous medium during an operation of returning the piston and which is situated on the opposing side of the piston,
[[and]]
a force transmission device cooperating with the working piston, and
a discharge device designed such that the gaseous medium is displaced suddenly from the return chamber during the operation of applying the working power.
2. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein
an accumulator communicates with the actuation chamber,
wherein the hydraulic medium ~~may be~~ is stored in the accumulator under pressure.
3. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 2, wherein
arranged between the accumulator and the actuation chamber is a control valve, wherein the hydraulic medium stored in the accumulator under pressure ~~may be~~ is fed suddenly via the control valve into the actuation chamber.
4. (Currently amended) ~~Device~~The device according to claim 1,
wherein the workpiece is a connecting rod and the force transmission device

is designed such that the workpiece ~~can be~~ is crack split.

5. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 4, wherein
the force transmission device has a locally fixed spreading jaw, a
movable spreading jaw and a spreading device in the form of a
spreading wedge for pushing apart the spreading jaws.
6. (Canceled)
7. (New) A method for applying power to a workpiece in a device including a working
cylinder, a working piston, an actuation chamber situated on one side of the piston and a return
chamber situated on an opposing side of the piston, comprising:
supplying the actuation chamber with a hydraulic medium during an operation of applying
the working power;
supplying the return chamber with a gaseous medium during an operation of returning the
piston; and
displacing the gaseous medium from the return chamber suddenly during the operation of
applying the working power.